# Lutheran Church of the Holy Comforter

216 N. Main Street • Belmont, NC 28012 • Sunday, January 5, 2020

# Second Sunday of Christmas

Micah Kearney Pastor



Greg Cline Organist/Choirmaster

#### WELCOME/GATHERING

#### **PRELUDE**

#### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

P Blessed be the holy Trinity,  $\pm$  one God, Love from the beginning, Word made flesh, Breath of heaven.

#### C Amen.

P Let us confess our sinfulness before God and one another, trusting in God's endless mercy and love.

# Silence for reflection.

#### P Merciful God,

C we confess that we are not perfect. We have said and done things we regret. We have tried to earn your redeeming grace, while denying it to others. We have resisted your call to be your voice in the world. Forgive us, loving God. Give us your righteousness, the strength to put aside our failures, and the courage to try again. Amen.

P Dear people of God, hear the good news: Christ the Savior is born! You are loved and forgiven in the name of  $\pm$  Jesus, who has come among us. You are freed from proving that you deserve to be loved, because God's love is given to you as the most precious gift of all. Rejoice in this love and share it with the world.

#### C Amen.



Text: Cecil Frances Alexander, 1818–1895 Music: IRBY, Henry J. Gauntlett, 1805–1876

#### GREETING

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C And also with you.

#### **KYRIE**





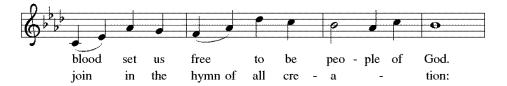
Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



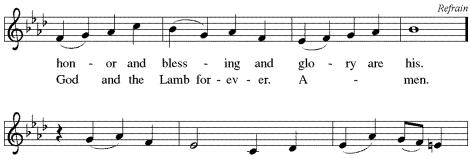


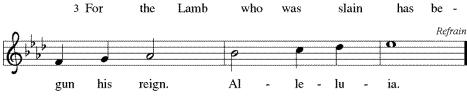












#### **SALUTATION**

- P The Lord be with you.
- C And also with you.

#### PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

Almighty God, you have filled all the earth with the light of your incarnate Word. By your grace empower us to reflect your light in all that we do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Congregation is Seated and are invited to sing "Jesus Loves Me" as the children come forward.

#### **CHILDREN'S TIME**

Children ages 4 to 8 years-old are invited to go to the Education building for a 20-minute (or so) time together immediately after the Children's sermon. Children will return to their parents during the hymn of the day. Children birth through 3 years-old are invited to join others their age in the nurseries.

FIRST READING Jeremiah 31:7-14

A reading from the thirty-first chapter of Jeremiah.

God promises to bring Israel back to its land from the most remote parts of exile. In Zion Israel will rejoice over God's gift of food and livestock. Young women will express their joy in dancing; God will give gladness instead of sorrow.

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<sup>7</sup>Thus says the Lord:
  Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob,
     and raise shouts for the chief of the nations;
  proclaim, give praise, and say,
     "Save, O Lord, your people,
     the remnant of Israel."
  <sup>8</sup>See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north,
     and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth,
  among them the blind and the lame,
     those with child and those in labor, together;
     a great company, they shall return here.
  <sup>9</sup>With weeping they shall come,
     and with consolations I will lead them back,
  I will let them walk by brooks of water,
     in a straight path in which they shall not stumble;
  for I have become a father to Israel.
     and Ephraim is my firstborn.
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<sup>10</sup>Hear the word of the Lord, O nations, and declare it in the coastlands far away;
say, "He who scattered Israel will gather him, and will keep him as a shepherd a flock."
<sup>11</sup>For the Lord has ransomed Jacob, and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him.
<sup>12</sup>They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion, and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the Lord, over the grain, the wine, and the oil, and over the young of the flock and the herd; their life shall become like a watered garden, and they shall never languish again.
<sup>13</sup>Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance,

and the young men and the old shall be merry.

I will turn their mourning into joy,

I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow.

<sup>14</sup>I will give the priests their fill of fatness,
and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty,

A The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

#### SECOND READING

**Ephesians 1:3-14** 

A reading from the first chapter of Ephesians.

In Jesus, all of God's plans and purposes have been made know as heaven and earth are united in Christ. Through Jesus, we have been chosen as God's children and have been promised eternal salvation.

<sup>3</sup>Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, <sup>4</sup>just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. <sup>5</sup>He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, <sup>6</sup>to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. <sup>7</sup>In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace 8that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight 9he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, <sup>10</sup>as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. <sup>11</sup>In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, <sup>12</sup>so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. <sup>13</sup>In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; <sup>14</sup>this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

- A The word of the Lord.
- C Thanks be to God.

#### **GOSPEL VERSE**



GOSPEL John 1:1-18

- P The holy gospel according to St. John, the first chapter.
- C Glory to you, O Lord.

John begins his gospel with this prologue: a hymn to the Word through whom all things were created. This Word became flesh and brought grace and truth to the world.

<sup>1</sup>In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup>All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being <sup>4</sup>in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. <sup>5</sup>The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

<sup>6</sup>There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup>He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. <sup>9</sup>The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. <sup>10</sup>He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. <sup>11</sup>He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. <sup>12</sup>But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, <sup>13</sup>who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

<sup>14</sup>And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. <sup>15</sup>(John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.' ") <sup>16</sup>From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. <sup>17</sup>The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. <sup>18</sup>No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

- P The gospel of the Lord.
- C Praise to you, O Christ.

#### **HYMN OF THE DAY:** *It Came Upon the Midnight Clear* . . . . All Stand & Sing



Text: Edmund H. Sears, 1810–1876 Music: CAROL, Richard S. Willis, 1819–1900

#### APOSTLES CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty,

creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,

who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,

born of the virgin Mary,

suffered under Pontius Pilate,

was crucified, died, and was buried;

he descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again;

he ascended into heaven,

he is seated at the right hand of the Father,

and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,

the holy catholic church,

the communion of saints,

the forgiveness of sins,

the resurrection of the body,

and the life everlasting. Amen.

#### PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Gathered with all who seek the Christ child, let us pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

Holy God, you make your presence known to the church in every land. Give to us a desire and will to support the diverse work of the church throughout the world. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Generous Creator, in you all things came into being and without you not one thing exists. We praise you for the snow and rain that water the earth. Move us to care for the well-being of the work of your hands. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Savior of the nations, you gather in your care people of every age and ability, from lands near and far. Inspire the leaders of the nations to work for peace within their countries and in all the world. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Saving God, provide for your people who begin this new year in need. Grant shelter to those who are homeless, comfort to all who are lonely, and a strong sense of your presence to those who are sick (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

#### Your mercy is great.

Word of truth, your good news of salvation is proclaimed among us. Bless all who proclaim your word in this community, especially teachers, pastors, deacons, musicians, and lectors. Hear us, O God.

### Your mercy is great.

Gracious One, your light shines in the darkness and it is not overcome. We thank you for the witnesses who have testified to your light. May their lives continue to inspire us. Hear us, O God.

# Your mercy is great.

Into your gracious hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your steadfast mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

# Amen. PEACE

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

C And also with you.

The assembly is seated.

#### **OFFERING**



Text: Hans A. Brorson, 1694–1764; tr. Harriet Krauth Spaeth, 1845–1925, alt. Music: HER KOMMER DINE ARME SMÅ, Johann A. P. Schulz, 1747–1800

**OFFERTORY RESPONSE:** *Infant Holy, Infant Lowly......* All Stand & Sing



- 1 In fant ho ly, in fant low ly, for his bed a cat tle stall;
- 2 Flocks were sleep-ing, shep-herds keep-ing vig-il till the morn-ing new



ox - en low - ing, lit - tle know-ing Christ the child is Lord of all. saw the glo - ry, heard the sto - ry, tid - ings of a gos - pel true.



Swift-ly wing-ing, an - gels sing-ing, bells are ring-ing, tid - ings bring-ing: Thus re-joic-ing, free from sor-row, prais-es voic-ing, greet the mor-row:



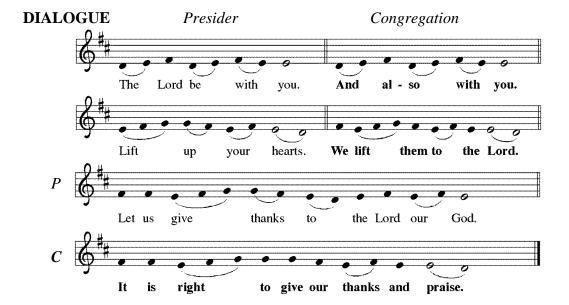
Christ the child is Lord of all! Christ the child is Lord of all! Christ the child was born for you! Christ the child was born for you!

Text: Polish carol; tr. Edith M. G. Reed, 1885–1933, alt. Music: W ŻŁOBIE LEŻY, Polish carol

#### **OFFERING PRAYER**

A Let us pray.

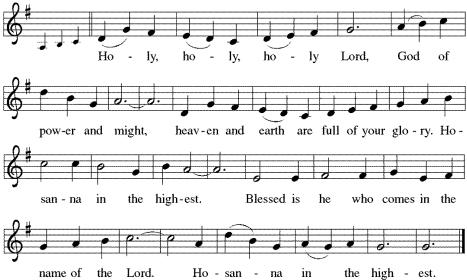
C Generous God, you have given us life, this community, and these gifts of the earth that become the meal of your grace. Move in our hearts, that we might use your gifts to bring hope and blessing wherever we go, through Christ our Lord. Amen.



#### **PREFACE**

P ...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

# HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



#### THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

#### LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread;

and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom,

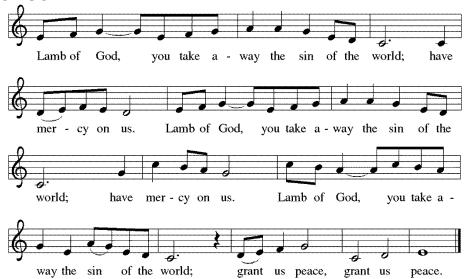
and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.



#### INVITATION TO COMMUNION

- P Love has come: God's love for all people. Come and eat, for Christ invites you.
- C Thanks be to God.

#### LAMB OF GOD



#### **COMMUNION**

A cordial invitation is extended to all persons to participate in the celebration of the real presence of the Risen Christ in the Sacrament of Holy Communion.



Text: North American, 19th cent. Music: CRADLE SONG, William J. Kirkpatrick, 1838–1921; arr. David Willcocks, b. 1919 Arr. from Carols for Chairs 1, © Oxford University Press 1960.

- P The body and blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
- C Amen.

#### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

- A Let us pray.
- C Emmanuel, God with us, you grace us with life and breath and give us bread for the journey. Send us out in service to this world that you love, telling the amazing news of your coming to be Savior and Lord of all. Amen.

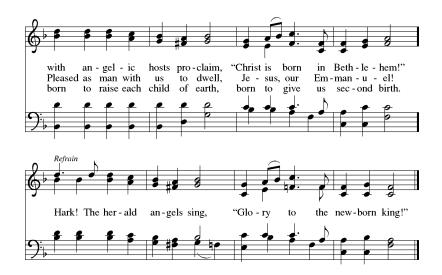
#### **BLESSING**

P Grace from God's own heart, peace from the + Child in the manger, and strength from the Spirit of life be blessings for you today and forever.

C Amen.

**SENDING SONG:** *Hark, the Herald Angels Sing.....* All Stand & Sing





Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, alt. Music: MENDELSSOHN, Felix Mendelssohn, 1809–1847; arr. William H. Cummings, 1831–1915

#### **SENDING**

- A Christ is born! Go tell it on the mountain and everywhere.
- C Thanks be to God.

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A CORDIAL WELCOME is extended to all our visitors on this Second Sunday of Christmas. We pray that you will find a warm fellowship while you are among us and that you will return home with a renewed sense of dedication to Jesus Christ. Please sign our guest register or a visitor's card so that we can become acquainted with you. If you are without a church home, we invite you to investigate membership in this family of God.

CHILDREN ARE WELCOME IN WORSHIP. Jesus said, "let the children come to me!" Parents are encouraged to utilize the Kids Worship Kits found in the Narthex for older toddlers through early elementary age. A nursery for children (infants through 3 years old) is in the Education building. Let an usher know if you need assistance.

**KIDS' WORSHIP CENTER:** Pick up kits as you enter for worship! **Please return the tote bag** with the plastic bag of crayons, scratch pads, and pencils to the stand in the narthex. The children may take any papers home with them.

**PRAYER REQUESTS:** A notebook has been placed in the narthex for your prayer requests during the week. The book will be in the narthex on Sundays and in the church office during the week. If you wish a name to be added to our prayer board, please fill out a form from the prayer book or fill in the online form at <a href="https://www.holyc.org">www.holyc.org</a>.

THE FLOWERS ON OUR ALTAR TODAY are given to the glory of God.

<u>Those who have placed flowers on the altar</u> may use containers to take them home, but please return the containers to the church. *Julia Gunter, Worship & Music* 

#### Attendance & Budget Report for Sunday, December 29, 2019:

Attendance: 123

<b>Budget Report</b>	This Week	Year-to-Date	(Unfavorable)
Offering	\$ 9,717.25	\$287,581.08	(11,585.04)
Expenses	\$ 5,774.35	<u>\$297,600.99</u>	1,565.13
Offering less Expenses	\$ 3,942.90	( <u>\$ 10,019.91</u> )	(10,019.91)

Sanctuary Roof and HVAC Status as Of: 12/29/2019

Goal: \$225,000 Received to Date: 226,175

**ASSISTING MINISTERS:** 

**LECTOR:** Julia Gunter **GREETER:** Volunteer

ACOLYTE: Volunteer TELLERS:

CRUCIFER: Volunteer CHILDREN'S CHURCH: Beka/volunteer

ALTAR GUILD: (Team 1) NURSERY:(10:30-11:45 am) Brandy Milton

USHERS: Volunteers EUCHARIST PRESENTERS: Volunteers

**COMMUNION ASSISTANTS: Volunteers** 

# THIS WEEK'S MEETINGS: Today, Sunday, January 5

8:45 am Children's Ensemble 9:30 am Sunday School 10:10 am Church choir prep 10:30 am Worship w/ Holy Communion

Blood Pressure Screening After Worship

5:00 pm Handbells

6:00 pm Church choir practice

#### Monday, January 6

6:00 pm PEP Exercise Class

#### Tuesday, January 7

7:00 pm Chamber Choir Nar-Anon

#### Wednesday, January 8

6:00 pm LYO Assembly Meeting 6:45 pm Women's Bible Study HCY Girls' Bible Study

#### Thursday, January 9

11:00 am Prime Timers' Bible Study and Lunch

#### **BIRTHDAYS FOR THE WEEK: January 5-11**

January 5 Jo Irwin January 7 Mary Lee January 9 Chuck Kimball Melany Shaw-Nixon



January 10 Charles Mauney Brandy Milton Becky Richards



**Real Age** A Happy and Blessed New Year to each of you! A new year often causes us to reflect on many things, including our age! A best-selling book, **RealAge: Are You as Young as You can Be**, by Michael Roizen, an internist specializing in preventive gerontology, provides interesting facts and motivation (do you have it, do you stick to it?). Here are some tidbits of information he shares: (1) Studies show 70% of how long and how well you live is determined by your choices (are you making good choices in your

life?). (2) A change in diet, exercise, and attitude (how IS that attitude - positive, negative, don't care?) should show results within 90 days; (3) We set targets for everything else in life but often do not for our health (how do you know you've reached your goal if you don't set one?) So, thinking about New Year's resolutions here: Make good choices for yourself; make some changes and use a POSITIVE attitude to stick with those changes regarding diet and/or exercise; and, finally, set a target goal – make sure it is attainable (i.e. Want to lose 10 pounds - set your goal for 1 pound loss per week), take baby steps to make it work for you, and be happy for each new day!

Note: Blood Pressure screening today. Come see the nurses in the fellowship hall to get your blood pressure checked.

Note: PEP exercise classes resume tomorrow, Monday, January 6 @ 7:00 pm in the fellowship hall. Here's your chance to make that change for more exercise!



#### PRAYERS FOR OUR FAMILY OF HOLY COMFORTER

Cathleen Allen Cynthia Buchanan Brenda Dabrowski Becke Featherstone Ellen Fleming

Sarah Tench Helms Kay Holden Zac Hullander Ben Moose Sherry Perry Marguerite Shive Denise Taylor Beverly Reynolds Jerri & Mike Wesson

#### **GREATER FAMILY OF GOD**

Janice Barker
Amy Beale Blythe
Doug Brewer
Ron de la Vega
Nancy Dickson
Earl Gardner
Larry "Poss" Garrett
Mark Glaeser
Meredith Hovis

Mary Huggins
Family of
Mark Lineberger
Steve Leonard
Ruth Lyerly
Jane Marino
Al McCoy
Clarence McLain
Aaron Mintz

Family of Dawn Mitchell Ann Mundy Linda Nichols Robert Nichols Sarah Nichols Tommy Smith Brody Thornburg Jeff Wiles

#### **OUR SERVICEMEN**

Beau Carroll

Tom Kasmer

Leo Kasmer

Colton Parker



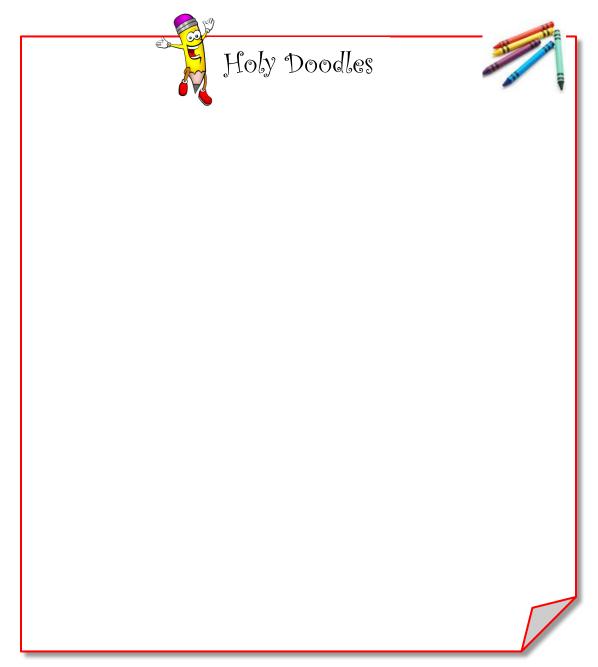
Please remember these people in your prayers.

If anyone has a person who needs to be added or removed from this list, please inform the church office.

The sign-up prayer forms are in the narthex and online at www.holyc.org.

NOTE: To ensure inclusion in the bulletin all information is due to the office by 12

Noon on Wednesdays.



# **Holy Comforter Lutheran Church**

216 N. Main St. Belmont, NC 28012 704-825-2483 holycomforter@gmail.com

SUNDAY SCHEDULE: 9:30 am Sunday School, 10:30 am The Service Church Office Hours: Monday-Thursday 8:30 am — 3:00 pm

Micah Kearney, Pastor email: MKearney@holyc.org Greg Cline, Organist /Choirmaster Beka Forst, Youth & Family Ministries Teresa Keller, Parish Nurse